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NEW AMERICAN GEASTERS.

BY A. P. MORGAN.

NOTE.—This article in a more popular form and with illustrations appeared in the *American Naturalist* for October, 1884. The authorities on the subject are chiefly Fries' Systema Mycologicum and Dr. Cook's *Grevillea*, Vol. II. page 77 with the Illustrations.

GEASTER, Mich. EARTH-STAR.—Receptacle double, consisting of an outer and an inner peridium: outer peridium stellately divided into several segments; inner peridium dehiscing by a mouth at the apex; spores globose, echinulate.

A. Pedicels several, 1.
B. Pedicel single;
    a. Mouth sulcate-plicate, 2, 3.
    b. Mouth ciliate-fimbriate, 4, 5.
C. Pedicel wanting, spores small.
    c. Mouth sulcate-plicate, 6, 7.
    d. Mouth ciliate-fimbriate:
        a. Plants large, 8-10.
        b. Plants small, 11-13.
    e. Mouth dentate, 14.
D. Pedicel wanting, spores large.
    f. Mouth ciliate-fimbricate, 15.
    g. Mouth lacerate, 16-18.

A. Inner peridium with several pedicels and numerous mouths.

1. G. COLIFORMIS, Pers. Outer peridium multifid; inner peridium depressed-globose, 1½—2 inches in diameter, the mouths ciliate; spores .0050 mm. Colorado, Prof. Chas. H. Peck.

B. Inner peridium with a single pedicel, mouth one.

a. Mouth sulcate-plicate.

2. G. FORNICATUS, Fr. Outer peridium double, subquadrified; inner peridium subglobose, ½—1 inch in diameter; spores .0035—.0040 mm. Carolina, Curtis; Schweinitz under *G. quadrifidum*.

3. G. BRYANTII, Berk. Outer peridium single, multifid; inner peridium sub-globose, ¾—1 inch in diameter; spores .0040—.0045 mm. New York, Prof. Chas. H. Peck.

b. Mouth ciliate-fimbriate.

4. G. LIMBATUS, Fr. Inner peridium subglobose, brownish, ¾—1 inch in diameter; spores .0040—.0045 mm. Alabama, Peters; Carolina Curtis; New England, Frost; Ohio.

5. G. MINIMUS, Schw. Inner peridium ovoid, white, about ¼ of an inch in diameter; spores .0040—.0045 mm. East and South.

C. Inner peridium sessile, the spores small, .003—.005 mm.

c. Mouth sulcate-plicate.

6. G. STRIATUS, D C. Inner peridium depressed-globose, about ½ an inch in diameter, the mouth prominent; spores .0035—.0040 mm. Carolina and Penn., Schweinitz under *G. pectinatum?* New York, Peck; California, Harkness; Illinois, Andras; Ohio.

7. G. UMBILICATUS, Fr. Inner peridium depressed-globose, about ½ an inch in diameter, the mouth in a depressed marginate disk; spores .0035—.0040 mm. New Jersey, J B. Ellis.

d. Mouth ciliate-fimbriate.

a. *Plants large.*

8. G. RADICANS, B. & C. Outer peridium separating into two coats, the inner coat vaulted; inner peridium reddish, ¾ of an inch in diameter; spores——? Carolina, Curtis, Ravenel.

9. G. TRIPLEX, Jungh. Inner part of the outer peridium separating and forming a cup; inner peridium pallid; ¾—1½ inches in diameter; spores .0050—.0055 mm. Michigan, Fœrste; Ohio.

10. G. FIMBRIATUS, Fr. Outer peridium single; inner peridium wanting the circular disk in which the determinate mouth of other species is situated; spores .0030—.0025 mm. East and South; California, Harkness.

b. *Plants small.*

11. G. VITTATUS, Kalch. Lower surface of the segments of the outer peridium longitudinally rimose, so as to appear white-vittate; otherwise not different from the next. Ohio.

12. G. SACCATUS, Fr. Inner peridium globous or depressed-globose, ½—¾ of an inch in diameter, the mouth determinate; spores .0030—.0035 mm. East and South; Ohio. Perhaps the most common Geaster.

13. G. LAGENÆFORMIS, Vitt. Inner peridium ovoid, ½ an inch or less in diameter, the mouth determinate; spores .0030—.0035 mm. Ohio.

e. Mouth dentate.

14. G. RUFESCENS, Pers. Inner peridium subovoid, the mouth determinate; spores .0040—.0045 mm. Carolina, Schweinitz; California, Emory.

D. Inner peridium sessile, the spores large, .008—.010 *mm.*

f. Mouth ciliate-fimbriate.

15. G. MAMMOSUS, Chev. Segments reflexed when dry; inner peridium depressed-globose, the mouth conic-acute in a circular disk; spores .008—.010 mm. California, Harkness.

g. Mouth lacerate.

16. G. HYGROMETRICUS, Pers. Segments closely inflexed when dry; inner peridium subreticulate, depressed globose, dehiscing irreguarly; spores .008—.010 mm. East and South; Winconsin, Dr. Brown; California, Harkness.

17. G. FIBRILLOSUS, Schw. Outer peridium externally fibrillose-scaly, the segments inflexed when dry; inner peridium smooth, subglobose; spores——? Closely related to the preceding. Pennsylvania and Carolina, Schwenitz.

18. G. LINKII, Spreng. Both the inner and outer peridia at first fleshy then rigid and multifid; spores——? Pennsylvania and Carolina, Schwenitz under *Actinodermium Sterrebeckii*, Nees.

NEW LITERATURE.

BY W. A. KELLERMAN.

WHARTON, HENRY THORNTON, "On Fries' Nomenclature of Color," in *Grevillea*, Dec. 1884.

This consists of an examination of the epithets used by Fries in describing the coloration of the "Agaricini," and was read before the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Oct. 13, 1884. Mr. Wharton enumerates only those found in the "Hymenomycetes Europæi," and the list, excluding reference to compound names, reaches nearly 200. His complete list, as originally made, amounted to 840. To collect these he had to perform the laborious task of reading 20,000 lines of concisely-written Latin. The enumeration includes "not only the color-names used for descriptive purposes by Fries himself, but also most of those used as specific. And in making specific names there is a natural tendency to use a color-name synonymous with another, simply from the fact of the most obvious one having been already used. For instance, a describer wishes to name a white species *Agaricus albus;* but when he finds that name is preoccupied, he names his species *Ag. candidus*. Still we need not conclude that he had the strict classical Latin differences of the two words in his mind's eye; he probably never thought that *Ag. albus* was so named because it was of a dead white, nor in speaking of *Ag. candidus* need he have meant to imply that it was of a glistening white, as Cicero might have done."

Another difficulty that Mr. Wharton met with lies in the fact that color-names were used in classical times with considerable indefiniteness. Again, "much of the difficulty that surrounds the nomenclature of colors is also due to there being no authoritative code. In each branch of art or knowledge at the present day, different names are used for the same colors. The 'purple' of the cardinal is crimson; the 'pink' of the huntsman is scarlet. An artist calls his colors by the names under which he buys them," * * * "consequently mycologists must